



SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

GEORGE SHIRLEY VOCAL COMPETITION

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Welcome Concert

A Celebration of Our Composer's Division
May 15, 2026 | 7:00 p.m. | Britton Recital Hall

16th Annual George Shirley Vocal Competition
The University of Michigan
School of Music, Theatre, and Dance

Welcome from George Shirley, Founder of GSVC and Louise Toppin, Director/co-founder of GSVC

After Love from *Four Songs* (Sara Teasdale)
Salmi 46:10
Survivors
Four a.m. in the woods (Marilyn Nelson)
Grief from *Only in Dreams* (Dorothy Parker)

Josef Adam
Danae Venson
Innocent Okechukwu
Malcolm Parson
Brittney Benton

Myah Paden, mezzo-soprano
2025 George Shirley Competition Pre-Professional, Third Prize Winner
Mariah Boucher, piano

Brittany Benton, *2025 George Shirley Competition, Marquita Lister Composer's Prize Winner*

Father's voice (Sonia Sanchez)
Silenced

Jordan Davidson
Kevin Arthur

Tyrese Byrd, tenor
Raphael Chou, piano; Kalliopi Katsiris, flute

The Black Finger (Angelina Weld Grimké)

Nicole Joseph, soprano; Myah Paden, mezzo-soprano
Raphael Chou, piano

Nyandeng Juag

Lerato la mme
Your World (Georgia Douglas)
If I Imagine a Mother
Smoothly the Sun Sets
Corner Motel Mercy

Makudupanyane Senaoana
Symone Harcum
Mattie Levy
Kenneth Schafer
Ty Bloomfield

Nicole Joseph, soprano
Arturo Fernandez, piano
Ty Bloomfield, *2025 Karen Slack Prize for a New Commission*



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Tea Leaves (Kaswanna Kanyinda)

Lawren Brianna Ware-Boggs and Kaswanna Kanyinda

Kaswanna Kanyinda, mezzo-soprano

Lawren Brianna Ware-Boggs piano

Jafré Chase, viola

Faye Lu, djembe

Lawren Brianna Ware-Boggs and Kaswanna Kanyinda

2024 Winner Opera on Tap Prize Composition

too difficult to forget (Lola Ridge)

Ty Bloomfield

I. the remote hunger of droning things

II. where shall I pour my dream? (Interlude)

III. our faces, warm and fragrant

Justice Yates, baritone

2025 GSVC Pre-Professional First Prize Winner

Mariah Boucher, piano

Ty Bloomfield, *First Prize Winner*

2025 Karen Slack Prize for a New Commission

Closing Remarks

Thank you for attending the 2026 GSVC Welcome Concert.

[2026 GSVC Schedule](#)

[2026 GSVC Live Updates](#)

